

recognize the comrades of Lt. Braly for their good will.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. CON. RES. —

Whereas on August 2, 1944, a squadron of P-51s from the United States 364th Fighter Group strafed a German munitions train in Remy, France;

Whereas the resulting explosion killed Lieutenant Houston Braly, one of the attacking pilots, and destroyed much of the village of Remy, including 7 stained glass windows in the 13th century church;

Whereas despite threats of reprisals from the occupying German authorities, the citizens of Remy recovered Lieutenant Braly's body from the wreckage, buried his body with dignity and honor in the church's cemetery, and decorated the grave site daily with fresh flowers;

Whereas on Armistice Day, 1995, the village of Remy renamed the crossroads near the site of Lieutenant Braly's death in his honor;

Whereas the surviving members of the 364th Fighter Group desire to express their gratitude to the brave citizens of Remy; and

Whereas to express their gratitude, the surviving members of the 364th Fighter Group have organized a nonprofit corporation to raise funds through its project "Windows for Remy" to restore the church's stained glass windows: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the bravery and honor of the citizens of Remy, France, for their actions with respect to the American fighter pilot Lieutenant Houston Braly, during and after August 1944; and

(2) recognizes the efforts of the surviving members of the United States 364th Fighter Group to raise funds to restore the stained glass windows of Remy's 13th century church.

THE WAKPA SICA RECONCILIATION PLACE ACT

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague from South Dakota, Senate Democratic Leader TOM DASCHLE, as a cosponsor of the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place Act, which will establish the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place in Ft. Pierre, South Dakota. The Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place would be an important cultural and interpretive center, in part to compliment the National Lewis and Clark Trail, but with the unique perspective of the Sioux tribes and the impact of the Lewis and Clark encounter on tribal culture and economics.

During the Lewis and Clark expedition, Captains Merriweather Lewis and William Clark anchored their river boats where the Wakpa Sica, or Bad River, flows into the Missouri. After four months of travel from St. Louis, history was made on September 24, 1804. The next day 44 men landed on the west bank of the Missouri and paraded under the United States flag.

These men then joined Chief Black Buffalo and braves from the Teton Sioux for council in the chief's buffalo skin lodge. This was a key and pivotal meeting between representatives of the great Sioux tribes and those of the United States of America. This meeting was less than amicable.

Throughout the rest of South Dakota's history the relationship between native peoples and non-natives has not been a peaceful one. Today we are still facing the challenging experience of working and living together side by side. I am proud of the South Dakotans who set their differences aside and came together and created the Mni Wiconi water project. There is a growing need for a Reconciliation Place.

The Reconciliation Place would occupy the site in which Captains Lewis and Clark, and the members of the tribes came together to meet for the first time—which is a fitting site to bring Indian and non-Indian peoples together. It is my hope that this center will bring people together to learn about the culture and the rich history this area of the United States holds. Through this understanding, it is my hope that we may be able to achieve better relations between Tribal and non-Tribal peoples.

This project is a cultural center which will serve as a home for Sioux law, history, culture and arts for the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota peoples. It will also serve as a repository for Sioux historical documents, which are currently scattered throughout the West. Many native people do not have access to these documents. With the construction of this facility the native people will be able to house these documents close to home. This will allow interested parties to research their rich past.

The Reconciliation Place will also be the home of the Sioux Nation Supreme Court. This will serve to be a stable legal setting to assist in achieving greater social and economic welfare in Indian Country. Increased legal stability will help promote business investment in the vast human resources that are situated on the reservations in my state. This will bring about more self sufficiency, and less reliance by tribes on the federal government. Similarly, the Native American Economic Development Council will be located in this same facility. This council will assist tribes and tribal members to provide opportunities for economic development. The council will assist in opening the doors to private investment and other resources that are designed to promote development and job creation.

Mr. President, this focal point for Native American culture, law, and economic development assistance is desperately needed. It is apparent that there is a need to strengthen current, and build future understanding be-

tween Indian and non-Indian peoples, as well as promote the government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the United States. I urge my colleagues to join myself and Senator DASCHLE to support this legislation, and recognize the need for such an important center. I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor of the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place Act, and that my statement be included in the RECORD.

SENATOR BYRD'S 82ND BIRTHDAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today on a personal note. I had planned to make these remarks as we passed the midnight milestone on our way to cloture on the appropriations bill, because, as the clock strikes twelve, and November 20 begins, my Committee colleague, our Ranking Member, ROBERT C. BYRD will celebrate a birthday. I wish my colleague a happy and productive 82nd year.

Senator BYRD has a wonderful and widely quoted sign up on his office wall: "There are four things people in West Virginia believe: God Almighty, Sears Roebuck, Carter's Little Liver Pills, and Robert C. Byrd." I'd like to take a little literary license to suggest that there are four things that ROBERT C. BYRD believes in: God Almighty, his 62 year long love affair with his wife, Erma, his constituents and the Senate.

And, Senator BYRD is not just your run of the mill believer. I have listened many times to the wisdom and intensity of his words, words which flow from a faith that runs as deep as his West Virginia roots, as deep as the coal mines which seam the earth of Appalachia. His words are what have led many to see Senator BYRD as the faithful historian and effective guardian of the precedents and privileges, of the rules and Constitutional role of the United States Senate. But, Senator BYRD is more than an institutional advocate, he is a living history of the Senate and democracy. The Senator from West Virginia gives a clear voice both to our finest traditions and what he sees as his life long purpose, serving what he so nobly refers to as "my people." His reverence and respect for the Senate are surpassed by the deep regard and abiding passion he has for the needs of his constituents.

He speaks of those needs virtually every week. Senator BYRD breathes life into images of each West Virginian he introduces to us in remarks on the floor—even those who have passed from the scene. When he describes a man who dies in a slate fall while mining West Virginia's coal, he speaks softly of a man, alone, who died in the dark. The illuminating power of this image flows from the passion of his commitment.

It is his commitment which crosses partisan lines and has earned Senator